

THE KEYNOTE

North American Version

FISTS CW Club

USE
CW



IT'S THE REAL THING

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 Mugs are \$7.50. Tshirts: S, M, L, XL = \$9; XXL, XXXL=\$10. These prices DO include priority postage. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FISTS CW CLUB.

...GET A MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$2 (to cover printing and mailing - it's 14 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/FISTS number to Brian W8BL at blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. ***What's the Family Plan?*** All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR A FISTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD? Send a list of contacts: call, FISTS #, date, band, power used, and YOUR return address to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the US issued Awards. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including \$5 US cash to cover the cost of the award plus postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION? Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Monridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**

North KEYNOTE American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682

Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720

Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

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Happy 1999, FISTS! Geo, G3ZQS, is taking a month off, so there will not be any DX Key Note included in this issue. Altho we'll miss his DX news, that gives us a chance to get a little more caught up on US news.

The winner of this month's photopage drawing is Jack, WB2FXK. Jack wins a package of FISTS goodies, just for sending in his photo. Everyone who sends in their picture is eligible for the drawing. You have a new chance to win every month, so send in your picture today, if you haven't already done so. Any snapshot will do, as long as your face shows about the size of a quarter. We can't resize the photos or return them. Send in YOUR photo to Ken W8ROG, 44609 Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038 today!

Can you believe it's time to think about the Dayton Hamvention already? We have our booth space confirmed. We will be in the same place as the last half dozen years (thank you, Dayton Hamvention people!). We're on the ramp between the food court and the main arena. I hope you'll stop by and say hello. We can always use help at the booth, so please try and take a few hours out of your Dayton weekend to give us a hand. You'll have fun meeting all the FISTS who stop by the booth and it gives WO8E and I a chance to go get some lunch or wander around.

FISTS is sponsoring Novice Round-Up in February. Details are inside this issue of the Key Note. Please talk this up at your local clubs. The information has been sent to all the major ham magazines, but it's a crap shoot as to whether it will get published or not.

My scanner has been acting up (computer scanner, not shortwave!), so if you've sent me something via snailmail that is lengthy, it's going to have to wait for another month to be printed, sorry!

Several months ago, we had a request from a FISTS member for a FISTS logo log sheet. We had several responses to this request and I will include them in an upcoming issue. I need the scanner to put a couple of them in here, and that wasn't possible this month. I think you'll really like these log pages, they're all very special. By having them in the Keynote, you can make xerox copies of the one you prefer and use it in your shack for your FISTS contacts!

If you don't want to wait for the Keynote to see one of the log pages, Mike N9BOR makes this offer: "I put one together in Corel Draw (ver. 7.0). I'm happy to forward a copy of the files (two) to anyone else that wants it or to send a printed copy by mail. Anyone requesting a copy should send a 9" x 12" SASE for an unfolded one or a #10 SASE if they don't mind having it folded.

I converted the file to low resolution images and put it on my web site. It's useless to copy from, however it can give someone a rough idea of what it looks like. The actual log looks considerably better than what you see on the web site."73 de Mike, N9BOR # 4594 <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor> n9bor@qsl.net

OK! Enough of the chit-chat, hi...on with the Keynote....

Welcome to the new FISTS

| <u>FISTS#</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> | <u>fists#</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 5631 | W5VTL | PAUL | NM | KA4IFF | 5679 | KG8RN | JERRY | OH | W8WEN |
| 5632 | N5HGN | DENNIS | MS | KB5DKW | 5680 | K2IYE | FRANK | NJ | N9BOR |
| 5633 | KC5TJG | GEO | TX | W1LIC | 5681 | AA9VW | CHARLES | IN | K9IQ |
| 5634 | WW1AW | Jojo | MI | KC5UBC | 5682 | WA8KOQ | WINK | TN | KT3A |
| 5635 | W7GOY | LARRY | WA | | 5683 | AB7XA | BRUCE | WA | WA7MMG |
| 5636 | N9AHQ | HOWARD | VA | N1PT | 5684 | N3YVC | MIKE | PA | Webpage |
| 5637 | W4LGJ | JERRY | KY | WD4AXJ | 5685 | N3ATZ | RICHARD | MD | W3JIM |
| 5638 | W8FS | LOWELL | MI | KB7PIM | 5686 | N1WCZ | JOHN | MA | KD6WNM |
| 5639 | KC4TAH | MARVIN | FL | N4ZMP | 5687 | KA8OFP | CHUCK | OH | KC8BYF |
| 5640 | W2GUM | TONY | NJ | W1EPZ | 5688 | WA2RVT | JEFF | NJ | N4ZMP |
| 5641 | KO4QO | GEORGE | GA | N1YLA | 5689 | K2WW | CHUCK | AZ | W2JSF |
| 5642 | VE7HCA | JR | BC | VE7HWR | 5690 | KE2UK | RONALD | NY | W0AGH |
| 5643 | W8IZZ | DON | OH | Webpage | 5691 | N5YWA | MIKE | TX | |
| 5644 | W1GTA | LARRY | NH | K4UOZ | 5692 | W0TBC | JOE | MN | W0QIK |
| 5645 | N2GI | BOB | NJ | W2JSF | 5693 | AA1SP | ELI | CT | N4ZMP/N1NCY |
| 5646 | KB9CTJ | LOREN | IL | Webpage | 5694 | N4PAC | BEN | NC | WB0CFF |
| 5647 | VE6KF | FRANK | AL | Webpage | 5695 | KB9BVN | BRIAN | IN | Webpage |
| 5648 | W8HF | RON | MI | N4GD | 5696 | WA0GOZ | HENRY | MN | Webpage |
| 5649 | KB4LWT | LARRY | GA | N4GD | 5697 | K2UPI | KENNETH | NY | A19L/AF9H |
| 5650 | ND1U | Notre Dame | ARC IN | N4GD | 5698 | WB9LPU | DICK | IN | Webpage |
| 5651 | KB4LWS | DIANE | GA | N4GD | 5699 | KC5GAI | MARTY | OK | KB0TFV |
| 5652 | KA8QOB | BOBBY | WV | Webpage | 5700 | W4GGM | Maury ARC | TN | KE4YBS |
| 5653 | W1IDL | VINCENT | MI | | 5701 | WA1FXC | ELLIS | ME | NB2T |
| 5654 | KC5QBU | TIM | A | N6RNP | 5702 | KB7MBI | ALAN | WA | Webpage |
| 5655 | W3EPR | CAM | MD | W3EE | 5703 | WB6SZZ | RAY | CA | N8WPX |
| 5656 | W7POE | GEORGE | WA | Webpage | 5704 | KA3P | ROBERT | PA | |
| 5657 | K7DEE | DEE | AZ | K5HLR/NF0Z | 5705 | N2KBL | THOMAS | NJ | Webpage |
| 5658 | K1SEC | PAUL | MA | WB0CFF | 5706 | W1EMT | JAY | BT | W9ISC |
| 5659 | W7ACL | RUSSELL | OR | WA7MMG | 5707 | KC7JRY | WILLIAM | AZ | #4594 |
| 5660 | AA0OS | JON | IA | WB5EOK, WB3K, WB7PEI | 5708 | N0SG | STEVE | MM | N2IX |
| 5661 | N0UR | JIM | MN | Webpage | 5709 | K6BHH | CURT | CA | N6RNP |
| 5662 | KC0AXK | KEVIN | IA | WB0T | 5710 | W0CC | RUSSELL | MO | AB0HQ |
| 5663 | VA3CRA | ANDREW | ONT | AA7XQ | 5711 | N1TX | LARRY | AK | W1GTA |
| 5664 | KB0NJJ | ANDREW | CO | KK7OM | 5712 | KC8FGQ | JIM | MI | Webpage |
| 5665 | AA1QJ | LAURNET | AZ | K5HLR | 5713 | W8YMO | HARRY | OH | KC8VQ |
| 5666 | WB7TNH | JOSEPH | MT | W7MAF | 5714 | KC0EHR | DAVID | SD | Webpage |
| 5667 | KE3WN | PAT | PA | KB3AWR | 5715 | KC2CKI | CAL | NJ | KC2AIO |
| 5668 | KA9QWC | DON | IN | K8LEN | 5716 | K2RES | RICH | NY | N1WLC |
| 5669 | N9TPR | HENRY | IL | | 5717 | KA9IKK | BILL | TX | N4KCJ |
| 5670 | K4RUS | RUSSELL | TN | | 5718 | KD7AKC | CRYSTAL | UT | KK2LC |
| 5671 | KF4ZGH | JOHN | SC | WB2FXK | 5719 | KD7AMO | BRIAN | UT | KK2LC |
| 5672 | AA1QN | JOHN | CO | | 5720 | KD7DCW | ANDY | UT | N8NLE |
| 5673 | WB0KUU | KEN | MO | W0CGR | 5721 | WI8Q | TERRY | OH | W0CGR |
| 5674 | W4BPT | BILL | VA | K4UK | 5722 | W4KFB | BILL | KY | W0CGR |
| 5675 | WA5JKS | ED | LA | WN4DX | 5723 | N8ZWV | JEANNIE | MI | N8UGV |
| 5676 | KB0YQY | DAVID | KS | N4ZMP | 5724 | W8JSN | SYLVAN | CA | KS7J |
| 5677 | W6GP | LYMAN | CA | KB7PIM | 5725 | N1PKS | DAVID | CT | W6DDB |
| 5678 | KB6JHP | PHILIP | MO | | 5726 | WB6JGD | RICH | CA | Webpage |
| | | | | | 5727 | K2HTX | CG | NY | KG2BI |

| # | Call | Name | State | Sponsor | # | Call | Name | State | Sponsor |
|------|--------|----------|-------|---------|------|---------|--------------------|-------|------------|
| 5728 | WA2DKG | JERRY | NY | W6AEA | 5777 | W7DG | Lower Columbia ARC | WA | N7CFA |
| 5729 | KC5PHE | JIM | NM | W4OA | 5778 | WA9VNS | JAMES | IL | |
| 5730 | NQ9L | DAVE | IN | | 5779 | WD9EKK | HELEN | IL | |
| 5731 | K8GTV | DAVE | MI | KF4ONA | 5780 | K3YBL | ROSS | TX | Webpage |
| 5732 | KF4RFF | IRENE | GA | AF4KL | 5781 | KF8LO | PAUL | TN | W4HZD |
| 5733 | W1FKA | ERIC | CA | WB2FXK | 5782 | N5SC | STEVE | LA | K5HLR |
| 5734 | WA4GWX | BILL | AL | WA4KQL | 5783 | KD5DDV | SHAWN | TX | W5WWW |
| 5735 | K2REB | DICK | NY | N2IX | 5784 | N6PJP | JOHN | NV | W5WWW |
| 5736 | AA2YO | GENE | NJ | Webpage | 5785 | N9YAI | RANDY | IN | K9IQ |
| 5737 | WB6SCV | MIKE | CA | W6DDB | 5786 | NR4G | JIM | TN | Webpage |
| 5738 | KC7JJ | LARRY | WA | KE7XX | 5787 | NO7UP | CHAS | WA | KB9NGF |
| 5739 | AA9CI | BERNIE | WI | N9JIY | 5788 | WA5KRF | CHARLIE | TX | Webpage |
| 5740 | KA8OUU | SANDY | AZ | W8FDV | 5789 | KG4BIG | KEN | KY | Webpage |
| 5741 | KA3X | JAY | PA | N9BOR | 5790 | W4WDL | EUGENE | NM | KS7J |
| 5742 | K3VUT | RICH | PA | N1NM | 5791 | WB3ABH | JOHN | PA | |
| 5743 | KB8OOR | BILL | OH | N8FL | 5792 | W3GW | JOE | LA | K5HLR/W4BX |
| 5744 | KF6MYS | HELEN | CA | W6DDB | 5793 | NO CALL | JEFF | ONT | |
| 5745 | KQ0I | MARK | IA | Webpage | 5794 | N0FKC | PETE | MN | KF0UU |
| 5746 | KU4WF | KEITH | FL | Webpage | 5795 | W7OB | BYRON | WA | W7GOY |
| 5747 | WJOEBO | JOE | MO | | 5796 | WA8PPW | SAMUEL | MI | |
| 5748 | N8EVJ | PETER | MI | Webpage | 5797 | KE6HMK | RITA | CA | KE6FFF |
| 5749 | W6KRL | PHIL | CA | AB7UW | 5798 | WA2NBS | FRED | NJ | KI0KM |
| 5750 | K6CJV | CHRIS | CA | Webpage | 5799 | KL7V | SAM | OK | K4PTU |
| 5751 | KA6WQE | DOUG | OR | Webpage | 5800 | no call | E-BART | ARC | MO |
| 5752 | KD7BOV | DAVE | AZ | KB6TAL | 5801 | KA0IFS | DON | IA | Webpage |
| 5753 | KB1DLV | FRED | ME | AA1KC | 5802 | KI7Q | JIM | WA | Webpage |
| 5754 | KB3DBS | ED | PA | Webpage | 5803 | AA0IP | ARDEN | CO | WB2FXK |
| 5755 | WA3DUH | JIM | DE | WB5ZJN | 5804 | KC0DMB | LEROY | MN | KA1RVV |
| 5756 | NC5E | E.D. | TX | K7ZYV/4 | 5805 | KB2WGQ | MATT | NY | KG9HV |
| 5757 | KF4NLF | RAYMOND | GA | W2BJ | 5806 | K7OF | LANCE | WA | KS7J |
| 5758 | K6PBQ | DON | CA | KE4NAY | 5807 | AF4KM | HENRY | GA | NC4CW |
| 5759 | N1DUQ | RAY | CT | WB2YAF | 5808 | KF4HJS | JOHN | SC | Webpage |
| 5760 | VA3LIB | MICHELLE | ONT | VA3SYQ | 5809 | WB7QBE | VERN | WA | AB7XA |
| 5761 | VA3SYQ | CHRIS | ONT | VA3LIB | 5810 | W7FHO | LOU | AZ | Webpage |
| 5762 | KJ3E | AL | MD | AA9LS | 5811 | N2WDV | JOE | NY | KC4UBC |
| 5763 | KB60AJ | BILL | CA | WF6W | 5812 | KD4VA | AL | SC | Webpage |
| 5764 | K7JIZ | STANLEY | UT | W9LUY | 5813 | KB9MMI | MIKE | WI | KB9GQX |
| 5765 | KB2S2B | DAVID | NJ | | 5814 | KF6UEB | Rick | CA | K3WWP |
| 5766 | KE6WOX | ART | CA | WB0CFF | 5815 | KFZVH | MARK | NC | K4PTU |
| 5767 | WA9ZQV | PAT | IN | KB9LSH | 5816 | AB5J | FRANK | OK | |
| 5768 | W1ARS | RON | CT | K4HL | 5817 | N6SL | BEN | LA | K4PTU |
| 5769 | KG9LZ | THOMAS | IL | KG9MT | 5818 | WA9YLB | JIM | TX | Webpage |
| 5770 | WB3FOJ | HOWARD | PA | Webpage | 5819 | N5WL | BART | OK | G3CWW |
| 5771 | WB3HOI | KEN | PA | N9BOR | 5820 | N2AME | LOU | NC | K2CQV |
| 5772 | K8HBI | CHAS | FL | W8III | 5821 | KF4JFV | JOHN | KY | WB2HEK |
| 5773 | W3QBK | STAN | MD | N1NM | 5822 | K3NXP | BILL | FL | KB6TAL |
| 5774 | W2YYS | GREG | MA | WB2FXK | 5823 | KF6FCN | SCOTT | CA | N6EV |
| 5775 | KB9SDU | RON | IN | Webpage | 5824 | KC2DYW | CATHY | NY | WA2DKG |
| 5776 | W2WX | STEVE | NJ | Webpage | 5825 | WB0RPA | Kid | MN | K5HLR |

Callsign Changes

Norm #3885 was KC7SUI is now AB7YS
Grant was K2ACW; new call is N4GM
Kuz, # 4537, was WD4KUZ; new call W4KUZ
Wayne #4907 was KB0PTE; new call N0EA
Mark #4056 was N6MNZ; new call N6IV.
Vincent #4582 was N2AJZ; new call KR2F
Andreas was AD6FQ; new call N6NU
Dave #5230 was KB2VCS; new call KB2D, with the name of Dan.
Walt # 2369 was KB8ZVD; new call is N8UD, with the name of Bud.
Tom #2360 was KI8CZ; new call K8CZ
Jim #5464 was KF4WRF; new call AF4MT
Johnny #2129 was KU4OZ; new call K4TW
John #3804 was KG9MT; new call K0PN
John #2524 was KF9IQ; new call K9IQ
Ken, #4524 was KB3CCQ; new call W3LDE
Fred #3231 was W5QJM; new call K5QLF
Glenn was KK7NB; new call AB7ZY
Harold , #4991 was KC9GL; new call N9HE.
Phil, #4701, KD7ARK; new call KK7RI
Skip, #5113 was KF4OFD; new call K4ERC
Ed, #3283 was AE5ED; new call NR5ED
Sarah #5422 was KF4VUG new call W4EEX
Rob #5406 was W2JE; new call W2IE
Dave #5604 was KC7ZDX; new call KK7RE
USS Requin submarine was W3XX, new call NY3EC
Jeffrey #5181 was AB8DK; new call K8OE
Rich #3986 was KC8GWG; new call KI8GZ
JD #3393 was KM5EJ; new call K5IF
Jack #4060 was KI0GW; new call N0GI
Rick #4782 was KB9SAA; new call W0QZ
Roger #2418 was KT4YY; new call AG4RM

Special Event

Tom KC0W, #3001, will be using the callsign "W0W" on February 15, 1999. Freqs. will be 14.040 7.040 & 3.540 +- a few kc.

This special event is to mark the day the Rolling Stones play Minneapolis.

Is YOUR Callsign On This List?

If it is, then YOU have QSL cards waiting at the FISTS QSL Bureau. Please send some SASE's to the Bureau so they can get rid of these cards!

(Call, Cards On Hand as of Dec 31)

K1BXZ,9 K1NAJ,8 KA1RVM,11 KE1AF,19
N1FN,7 N1NGM,6 N1YNO,7 W1DDW,6 W1EAK,11

K2SB,22 K2YEW,19 KC2AFO,7 KF2TP,9
KG2HG,6 KG2LU,8 KG2NT,8 N2MUT,11 N2OFG,14
N2OTG,30 N2TTL,7 N2YVF,28 W2BWQ,14
W2YQV,32 WB2UJS,6 WB2YAF,8 WZ2T,9

K3TE,6 KB3AVS,9 KB3CCD,6 N3IJR,6
N3PUR,7 N3SFA,6 N3ZPQ,7 W3AN,6 W3CG,12
W3EMB,6 W3FAF,8 W3HK,10 W3MNE,14
WA3VAT,6 WD3P,7

K4FDK,15 K4FOM,8 K4MF,17 K4SV,18 KE4KZV,11
KF4SEV,6 KN4NO,23 N4BV,6 N4KCJ,7 W4BW,8
W4OGZ,27 WA4CZK,7

AB5TY,6 AB5YC,7 AC5AM,6 AC5NL,10 AC5P,67
AC5PK,26 AD5X,11 K5APB,11 K5DQ,6 K5LN,10
K5ROV,6 K5WTA,6 K5ZTY,7 KA5AAE,6 KA5IXR,10
KA5TUF,6 KB5HRS,11 KC5JFO,13 KC5OBI,6 KD5S,6
KJ5BN,12 KJ5XF,17 KK5LM,7 KM5CS,9 KM5DT,8
KT5X,8 N5BI,15 N5LF,8 N5NU,16 N5XPZ,26
N5XQ,11 W5ODR,7 W5RPJ,17 W5TVW,7
W5WWW,7 W5XX,7 WA5TUT,7 WA5Y,6
WB5NKC,8 WB5QYT,6 WD5BVQ,7 WD5HFT,6

KC6DKE,11 KN6AE,6 KQ6EH,10

AB7UW,14 K7MOS,7 KB7MBI,7 KB7TMU,10
KD7BAB,9 KD7HV,10 KI7JL,6 KK7GR,7 KK7OM,9
N7WO,10 W7GS,9 W7QM,8 WB7QBC,9

AA8KK,18 AB8AV,43 K8FLY,8 K8NQC,6
K8OUA,19 KA8TQR,16 KC8BYF,25 KG8ZK,9
N8IE,6 N8JIW,23 W8CCN,7 W8DEP,7 W8FDV,50
W8FS,7 W8IIS,8 W8QYW,6 WA8ZED,9
WD8OCV,43 WD8OIM,6

AA9BO,17 AA9MR,11 AA9MU,11 AA9TH,6
AC9V,6 K9DIY,19 K9IQ,10 KA9GXZ,7 KA9YCB,7
KB9GQX,9 KB9KWA,13 KB9LSH,13 KB9MZK,8
KB9OVS,67 KB9RNM,14 KF9EI,11 N9FGC,7 N9IGE,9
N9NT,7 N9ZLA,8 N9ZUT,8 W9BYH,7 W9BYN,8
W9NN,7 W9SUL,6 W9VU,11

KA0VJX,8 KB0JTS,8 KB0PCI,12 KB0ZTN,15
KC0CRA,10 KG0KR,6 KI0HQ,20 N0IBT,10 N0NJK,35
N0UR,9 W0UFO,15 WD0HBW,6

VE1BBW,6 VE3UKU,6 VE6ZAA,6 VE7DWG,7
AL7JK,7 TG9ANS,6 VP2VI,6

FISTS Century Net

Dec 6: As I was puttering around the garage today I remembered the Sunday afternoon FISTS Century Award net and was looking forward to checking in. At noon local time - 1800 UTC I didn't hear anyone so I got out my last Keynote to check the net time. Well - It said 1900Z 1900 UTC came & went - 15058 kHz was quiet - I called QRL? a few times & got no reply so I let go a CQ FISTS. To make a long story shorter - - I turned the reply from KB9GRN into the Century Net! I appologize to Al or whoever was scheduled to be net control. I enjoyed running the net but feel like I should not have done so. Thanks to those who appreciated my effort though. Net was conducted from 1915 to 2100 UTC with the following check-ins: KB9GRN, N0BZM, W8III, KG2OK, K0OAL, KC5VJU, N4VEF, WG6M, K2SWZ, K6DF, W8BL, W8FAX. I used 100w with a full-wavelength 80 meter horizontal delta loop at 50 ft and attempted to keep my keyer speed below 20 wpm so that all could easily copy. 73, Bob Helms, AF5Z

Dec 12: Checkins: KC5VJU/NCS, WA1GAG, KC8GOJ, VE4GEC, N4VEF, NJ6VT, W8BL, K2SWZ, W6ZZZ, WZ8C, KC5T/QRP. Conditions have been a lot better and am afraid I may not have heard some that may have called. If I did sure am sorry. Want all the checkins we can get.

Dec 20: Cndx: Good. Large group with the Christmas spirit. QNI: W8BL/NCS, WA1GAG, KC5T, W3ERU, K7ZYV, W8FAX, KC8GOJ, K1SEC, K0OAL, N4VEF, W0CGR, KC5VJU, AC6TO, AF5Z, WX7M, VE7DXF, K4UK/M, KM5DT.

Dec 27: Cndx. Extremely poor. Much QRM and QRN. In 2 words > THE PITS.

QNI: AC6TO, K8EY, AF5Z Multi NCS. KC5VJU, KG2OK, K0HFK, K7ZYV, N5AF, K6DF, KF2TP, N4VEF, W0CGR, KC8GOJ, K0OAL.

Jan 3: We had a great net today. Conditions were pretty good until late in the net. We had a total of 26 checkins, and the net ran 2 1/2 hours. Really nice way to start the New Year with a lot of FISTS. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Please remember that when the net is this large, sometimes it takes a LONG time to get back to you when you check in late. But, as always, hang on and we WILL get to you. Thanks especially to all those operators who notified NCS when they left the net. This saves a lot of useless calling and keeps ev-

eryone aware of who is still in the net. Thanks to AC6TO, KC5VJU, and W8BL for all the fine work as NCS's during the past year. Hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 1999. 73....Al/W8FAX/NCS QNI: AC6TO, K7ZYV, K6DF, N4VEF, VE4GEC, W8BL, KI8DU, KC5VJU, AA9KH, NSLF, KC5T, W2BJ, N2SLB, N0AL, K0OAL, KB8KIK, VE2KRM, N2YVF, K4UK, KC8GOJ, AB2AU, KB8PGW, WA2VQV, KG8OK, KF3TP, K2SUZ.

SLO-CHAT Group

by Bill VE5HQ

The 15 meter slo chat is doing FB! Many ops are dropping in es calling CQ. The average speed seems to be abt 8 to 10 wpm, but I have yet to hear anyone not QRS when asked, so if there are any ops working slo cw es wish to grab a few QSO's, they are most welcome to look on "and around" 211580 on Sunday. Wud also like to remind ops to really try es work this novice area AS a novice area. Pse don't scare the new blood away by ripping along above 10 wpm, es pse be prepared to QRS to abt 5 if necessary. We start officially at 1700z, but there are usually ops on freq by 1630z. I have worked right up to 2200z on gd band days, so any time is a good time!

Lots of ops are still referring to this as a net. Originally we had that idea in mind, but for our purpose, a net is not feasable. Pse don't expect a control op to be here. Just drop by es have a "slo" cw QSO. Call or answer a CQ, es away you go! I have noticed at times all ops are working right on 211580 at the same time. This is not a good idea! We are not banned from areas around this freq, so let's try es spread a bit; hi! I know it is not easy for some of you to QRS, but your efforts to be here and work the new folk is appreciated. I hope you are all enjoying the "FSC" es wud definately like to hear any comments you may have regarding it. If you have been looking for a slo chat spot, well, here it is! Don't be shy! Just jump on the key es call CQ. Believe me, it doesn't matter how slo you are, or how bad your cw may seem to you. Someone WILL work you! This IS the place to practice! Just mention "pse qrs new op". We welcome ALL new ops, so tell a friend. FISTS membership is not a necessity! Ok, tnx for your time, es CU on the "slo-chat!" And a special tnx to you Nancy, for all your help.

Visit our Slo-chat Web page at:

<http://www.qsl.net/kd5ckp/slo-chat.htm>

NOVICE ROUND-UP

The 1999 Novice Round-Up Sponsored by FISTS CW Club will be held starting Friday Feb 12 at 1700 UTC to Monday Feb 15 2400 UTC.

Only QSO's made in the Novice CW band segments will be valid.

Novice/Tech QSO is worth 5 points, and non-Novice/Tech QSO is worth 2 points.

Exchange: Call Sign, Name, RST, License Class, QTH.

Total of 50 multipliers, one for each state worked.

Score = (number of Novice/Tech CW QSO's times 5), plus (number of non-Novice/Tech QSO's times 2), times number of multipliers worked.

Certificates to the top scoring Novice/Tech and Non-Novice/Tech, plus the winners will get a one year free membership in FISTS CW Club.

Send Logs and summary sheets and check sheets to: NOVICE ROUND-UP, c/o Dennis Franklin K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA., 94536-5448, postmarked no later than March 16, 1999.

Chess, Anyone?

John KB0UFB, is looking for people who want to play chess using CW. Contact him at John Telker, 1311 Merritt, Malden MO 63863

FOR SALE

Ralph W8LHG is selling about half of his collection of telegraph equipment. I've already been over to his QTH and bought my share, hi, but there is still a lot left! This is a terrific opportunity to add to your collection and get that bug you've always wanted. He has several J-38 straight keys, in case you don't have a straight key for emergency backup when your automatic keyer blows a gasket! The items for sale include:

Vibroplex Bugs, various hand keys, couple of paddles, LandLine Telegraph equipment, including many sounders.

No phone or Email, pse - SASE, snailmail only to Ralph R. Caryl, 316 Juniper Drive, Davison MI 48423

Bug Wanted

Vibroplex Lightning Bug with green painted base in mint/good condition. Contact Don Village K6PBQ, 3290 Woody Lane, San Jose CA 95132; phone is 408-263-2789

USS Requin Has New/Original Call

NY3EC is now the callsign for the USS Requin submarine. NYEC was the sub's original call while on active duty. The sub has the FISTS number of 1443.3

The sub is generally active on weekends and sporadically during the week on or around 25 Kc up from the bottom of the bands and around the FISTS .x58 frequencies. All vintage equipment is used on board the sub, and Brian N9VKY, #1212, the sub's radio op, points out that **KHz** hadn't come into vogue yet!

The sub is open to the public for tours at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh PA and hosts a special event the first weekend in October to celebrate the opening of the Science Center.

Paddles for Sale

Two very nice iambic paddles for sale: A German Shurr "Profi" beautiful solid machined brass paddle with removable hinged plexiglas dust cover. \$200 shipped in con US.

A Russian "KEY-8" chromed paddle with internal keyer, which is disconnected and wired for external iambic keyer. With Russian manual and schematic. \$100 shipped in con US. Contact Paul Goemans, WA9PWP, at jgoemans@facstaff.wisc.edu or 1508 Sundt Lane, Stoughton WI. 53589 608-877-4151

QSL Bureau Report

by Stan K4UK

It's been quite a year! We handled 49,084 QSL cards at the Bureau. We sent 4,039 QSL cards over to Bob Lowe, G0FRL for contacts with DX members of FISTS. We sent 2,867 QSL cards to Canadian members, and 1,059 cards to DX members on this side of the Atlantic. We also sent 93 cards to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH for the new ZL/VK members.

At last count, 1,134 members have (or have had) SASE's on file here at the Bureau. We have set up a Web Page on the Franklin County ARC Web Site to list those with SASE's. The page also lists those who have 3 or more cards on hand but no SASE's.

There are some members who prefer to QSL direct only, so we have included their calls on the page as well. If you have access to the Internet - check it out. We are going to keep the Web page as up-to-date as possible. But the status does change daily and we won't be able to update probably better than once every two weeks.

Of course the big news is the Postal increase which took effect on January 10. Interestingly, the increase for First Class Mail applies only to the one ounce rate. I have obtained 500 one cent stamps, actually called: The "H" Rate makeup stamp. We will put these stamps on the SASE's we have on hand which have 32 cent stamps. Due to the generosity of many members in sending stamps and/or money, we stay quite solvent. Our major costs have been postage for packages to Bob Lowe - which average 140-150 cards each time and involve between 6 and 7 dollars postage.

For the information of our Canadian members the Post Office advised that the postage for mail to Canada and other nations will NOT increase on January 10, 1999. It may, however, increase in midyear.

As some of you know we have sent: "Here are some cards for you. We need SASE's from you to continue sending them" letters. These have generally been effective in getting more SASE's on file. The costs for preparing these letters including postage for them also come from our "kitty".

One quick word about your SASE's - PLEASE put

your CALL in LARGE LETTERS in the UPPER LEFT-HAND corner of your SASE! It helps us do our job.

Some members have been putting two 32 cent stamps on their SASE's. This amount of postage (64 cents) is too much for 2 ounce and not enough for 3 ounce. So, we generally send 15 or 16 cards in those envelopes - unless we get a bunch of cards then we often will put on additional postage to total 77 cents to handle 23 cards.

If you want us to mail your envelope with fewer cards, put the number in parentheses next to your call in the upper left hand corner of each envelope. Or, if you want us to make periodic mailings (such as monthly) regardless of the number of QSL cards, just so note on the envelope alongside your call.

Now a word about that number which I put in the bottom left-hand corner of your SASE. It indicates my count of the number of envelopes you have sent us to date. The "helper" generally adds "of X" after the number such as "#11 of 13". This would let you know you have 2 more envelopes on file here, #12 and #13.

I handle all incoming mail here at my house and do the sort of cards and SASE's by call number. My helpers do the final sort and mailing. I haven't figured a good way to keep everyone up to date as to the number of SASE's they have on hand - because often the helper will send out the "Last Envelope" he has on hand before I get the new SASE's to him. Any ideas would be most welcome.

We often have to do quite a "detective" job to determine who the card is for. Sometimes because we have trouble deciphering the writing and sometimes the call letters are transposed or the prefix is wrong. We sometimes get cards with one call in the "Confirming QSO" block and a different call on the rear of the QSL card, or simply the FISTS number on the rear of the card.

We go by the call on the card unless it is obviously wrong, that is, not a FISTS member. Then if the FISTS Number is on the card, we can do a search of the mail list and perhaps find out who the card is for. Including the FISTS number is helpful. It's a good way to confirm that you got the callsign correctly.

Remember that the FISTS QSL Bureau handles cards for QSO's between FISTS members only! Please remember to send cards and envelopes to the Bureau address – NOT to Nancy WZ8C NOR to one of the helpers. When you do that it just slows up the processing!

We try our best to include the "Last Envelope" note in the envelope when we use it for a mailing. However, not being infallible, we sometimes fail to do so. If you haven't received cards in a while, try sending an SASE along with your next batch of cards.

If you DON'T want to use the Bureau – PLEASE let us know so we can send any cards we receive for you back to the sender with a note reading: "QSL's direct only". And a reminder to all members – Don't assume the member you have contacted uses the Bureau – ask specifically and get confirmation that he or she agrees to "QSL via the FISTS QSL Bureau".

You may recall that a package of QSL cards sent to the New Zealand FISTS bureau never made it there. Going through the records, it's been determined that it appears only the members who sent cards during the time period from October 31 to November 13 for ZL/VK contacts need to send replacements. Of course who among us can remember when we send cards to a QSL Bureau - Hi! But at least it could alleviate the fears of folks who have sent cards to us before October 31 or after November 13.

Let me say in closing, that we do appreciate all the comments we receive concerning the FISTS QSL Bureau. It couldn't be done without the help of my dedicated staff of "helpers" – You will find a picture of the "Staff" on the QSL Bureau Web Page – which is accessible directly from the FISTS Web Site. I try to forward your notes directly to the helper.

So, keep those cards and envelopes and notes coming in this New Year! Happy Hamming! Stan, K4UK

Web Page Hit Statistics

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Nov 1-7: 237 | Dec 1-5: 256 |
| Nov 8-14: 395 | Dec 6-12: 372 |
| Nov 15-21: 523 | Dec 13-19: 455 |
| Nov 22-28: 507 | Dec 20-26: 459 |
| Nov 29-30: 165 | |

Ask The FISTS

From Art W8PBO: In my past 50 years of CW operation many changes have occurred but one problem that bothers me now is the use of the question mark on the bands.

For example. I call CQ on 10 CW and several nice DX stations answer me. I am ready to put one in the log and on top of the one, two or three DX stations comes DITE DUMB DUMB DITE. I try to copy the DX stations that I heard but again Dite Dumb Dumb Dite over and over. Finally, I must lose all the DX stations that answered me!

Of course I know what is happening. Another station was tuning, did not get my call and wants me to repeat. On 10 meters he cannot hear all the other stations that are calling me. This is still not good operating procedure. He should know that if I do not get a reply then I will QRZ and let him answer me. I feel that the FISTS group are the leaders in CW operation and should show others the correct way to operate. Do not acknowledge that station who did not listen enough to even know who he is answering. What do you think? Art Ellis, W8PBO

From Sarah W4EEX: I'm shopping around for a new straight key. I'll probably never drive a Cadillac, but I sure want it's equivalent for CW. Hey, spoil yourself when and where you can, right?

I had no clue how many different keys are on the market. Japanese ultra-engineered marvels, Spanish-crafted wooden sculpturetes, dishy Vibroplexes as shiny as a new bike at Christmas. And to think I went into this thinking a Swedish pump was a shoe!

It seems so many folks use keyers that they're a little stumped when asked, "what's the best key?" What's more, I'd like to know why folks "like what they like". It sure would be nice if I could order, insure and ship a variety of these delights to my door, but then I gotta send all but one of 'em back. I say, better to ask what's so great about (fill in product name here), and begin the selection process that way. What's more, there's used and discontinued stuff out there at flea markets and fests that might be better than some of the new stuff. I would be interested in hearing entries along the lines of "Straight Keys We Have Known es Loved" for a future Keynote.

From Johnny K4TW: <jwolfe@bellsouth.net>

A while back, there was an article about a man who was deaf and used CW to talk with his family (even at the dinner table). He would place his hand on the speaker and feel the vibration for dits & dahs. I was trying to look through my past issues of the "Keynote" for the article to no avail. Do you remember such an article? Can you tell me what issue it was in? *That article doesn't ring a bell with me - anyone?*

From Herb, W3HL #3861: Hello. There was mention of the WWCW Net in Issue 10 1998. The new frequency and days of operation were given, but no time was given. Does it run continuously or at a set time? Any help would be appreciated.

Anyone have any info on this for Herb? I don't have any info about the WWCW Net other than what I printed in the Keynote.

From Joe WB7TNH, #5666: In the Sep/Oct '98, on page 15, "Fists Feedback". Very interesting reading. That SN (sent as one character) is not as "far fetched" and unknown as most may think.

Being a retired Radio Operator in the U. S. Coast Guard (retired since 1965), I have heard, AND MADE USE OF, the SN character quite a few times. When we used it, it always meant "ATTENTION!" and was used before an op sent something important - important to him that is. Like a pre-call to a XXx or TTT on cw on 500 kc or 8280/8364 kc (which used to be the HF calling/distress frequencies.) Heard it several times as a pre-call to medico traffic and TTT (Safety) messages. (As when reporting buoys "off station" or a light(house)being "out".

Although I never could find out where the SN character originated, lots of commercial ops used it extensively. I know that KHK out on Oahu had to send some "hot" weather advisory messages about incoming tidal waves and surface weather and they used it several times. (I was on the 500/8280 position at NMO, Coast Guard Radio Station Honolulu when I first heard of SN.)

Yes, SN, when heard, made any op perk up his ears and listen to what was to be sent next. The article on SN brought back some good, and some not so good, memories -to me at least. 73 88, Joe Heyde WB7TNH FISTS 5666

From Phil KE3FL: In Keynote Issue 9, Ernie KD6VMY added that he's heard AR as used in "WZ8C de KD6VMY AR" to mean that only WZ8C should answer. I have to say I've never heard it used that way. I believe that AR is used to mean "end of transmission". The ARRL publications use KN to mean (in the example above) that only WZ8C should respond.

AR is also written as a "plus" sign" + and means end of this transmission, but not the end of all my transmissions as does SK. When SK is sent it means you're closing shop & stopping all transmissions. I have heard folks send: AR SK, which I think is a bit redundant, "I'm done with this transmission - your turn, I'm done transmitting & closing shop." But perhaps not, perhaps it means "I'm done transmitting & losing shop AFTER your transmission." A CW equivalent to "this is KE3FL and I'm clear on your final?"

Anyone can buy a radio, an antenna, microphone, plug it in the wall and talk, but a real ham can take two pieces of wire and beat them together, and send a message when the going gets tough."

"My name is Wayne and fists nr is 5065, call VE7RGX. I'm not sure if I am going the right way with this question, but could you please ask some of the members what a good make of straight key they would recommend. I am a fairly new ham and have a cheap key that is doing the job, but would like to find out from some of the fellows what a good key is.

That's the second request for Straight Key info this month. Here's what Bill VE3MIQ says about the Kent key in the FISTS logo:

Page 11 of KeyNote issue 8 1998.FISTS Trivia by Jim K7JIH #5186 For those interested: The contacts on the straight Kent Key are right under the arm but blocked by the logo. The contact clearance adjustment knob is partially visible above and between the T&S in the word FISTS.

This contact location provides for a long lever arm (6-1/2 inches long including the knob) making it easier to send CW. The long arm amplifies the required motion needed to close closely spaced contacts. The pivot point is a ball bearing race. The Kent Key is a pleasure to use. I think the logo should stay where it is. Perhaps a complete sketch of the Kent Key could be included in a future issue of KeyNote.Bill VE3MIQ

QRP with John Shannon

What is one of the most important factors in QRP work, and one over which many of us have no control? It's our location.

Unless we are wealthy enough to pick out a superb location and move ourselves there, or fortunate enough to have been born in a superb location, we simply have to put up with what we have. I am one of those whose location is far from ideal for ham radio. In fact back in the 60's it caused me to become disenchanted with ham radio and give it up for several years. I have since learned how to live with what I have, and I am again having fun with ham radio.

If you are in a similar situation, don't let it get you down. Just do the best with what you have. Don't try to compete with others or get discouraged because they seem to do better than you do with similar equipment. Remember they may live in an ideal location for ham radio. Let me describe my location in a not overly detailed way, but such that you can get an idea of what I am talking about.

I live about 3 blocks from the Allegheny River which over the ages has carved out a rather deep broad valley leaving this location surrounded with hills of varying heights on all sides. On the average this leaves me with a blockage of 5 to 10 degrees in most all directions. This means that the DX signals that normally come in at low angles are attenuated or blocked by the hills as are my signals heading out to the DX station. As a consequence, I will normally not be able to work DX as easily as someone who lives say, on top of one of the hills.

Oftentimes the person on the hill will be able to work a station with the signal taking only a single hop because the arrival and departure angle of the signals can be at a very low angle. At the same time under the same conditions for me to work the station, the signals must take 2 hops with the consequential loss of signal strength in the extra pass through the ionosphere and the midpath bounce off the earth's surface. I have done some extensive comparison of my results with those of a friend of mine who lives in the flat lands of Ohio with no hills at all to contend with. It is quite interesting, and shows very clearly what an advantage he has over me.

We are both about the same age with the same ham experience. Neither of us is any more skilled than the other. We both use QRP and wire antennas in our attics. I am not going to go into a lot of detailed statistics for fear of making this boring. However just as an example, we'll consider Russia and Africa. It so happens that to my north is the lowest gap in my surrounding hills. Perhaps only 2 or 3 degrees of hills at the most.

That is the direction my signals take to reach Russia. It so happens that both of us seem to be able to work Russia equally well. I can work quite weak Russian signals easily because the signals pass freely through that gap in my hills.

Now to my east lie the highest hills. In that direction is the heart of the African continent. My friend can work Africa much much easier than I can. He has easily worked the Eastern part of Africa out to Reunion Island. I have trouble even hearing stations from that area of the world. While I can work Africa, virtually all of my African contacts are with the west coast of Africa. Why? This involves much shorter distances so the attenuation of my sigs by the hills are not quite as much of a factor.

Analysis of results in other directions is equally as telling. Where I have the hills to contend with, his results are always better. What is my point of telling you all of this. Merely to say that you should not get discouraged with your QRP operation if you can't match someone else's accomplishments. Take into consideration the location factor. That will probably be a big factor in the difference. That other person you're comparing yourself with is no better than you are. It's not that at all.

Don't get discouraged - just stop and figure it out. And to those of you with the superb locations, etc. - don't gloat over your accomplishments. Be proud of them, and mention them to others, but in a humble way.

I don't want anyone to become discouraged with QRP and/or ham radio, and give it up. We need all of you to keep this hobby strong. Finally remember even if you don't have the ideal situation or location, you can still have fun with QRP and ham radio. I certainly do. I don't care if other folks have better results than I do.

I only compete with myself. I have predicted to my friend that he will easily catch and surpass my DX totals because of his superb location even though he hasn't been chasing DX as long as I have. I will be quite disappointed if he doesn't do so. Gee, my page is used up again. Remember to check out my web site for many helpful ham radio aids. It's at www.alltel.net/~johnshan or Email me at johnshan@alltel.net or write John H. Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. For now, very 73 and good QRP DXing to you all. -30-

FISTS Code Buddy Program

by John - W9EM

Hello FISTS! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Those of us in the north are trying to stay warm. Winter has come with a fury in the Chicago area, heavy snow and cold temperatures. Now that the holidays are behind us, it's a good time to get involved with the Code Buddy program. If you have thought about getting involved, the timing would be great because we are very low of experienced operators in all areas of the country. Please send your application to me and I'll hook you up with someone that needs your time, experience and patience. If you are currently helping someone and can take on another, please let me know.

Last month the Code Buddy database contained one hundred and ninety-five entries. We continue to grow and are up to two hundred and nine participants.

There didn't appear to be much interest in PC CW programs or at least it doesn't seem to be a favorite tool. So there isn't anything to report but thanks to both of the members that sent me their opinions. Anyone interested can send me an email and I'll forward their comments to you.

Thanks again for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program. 73 John - W9EM

Traffic Sending Opportunity!

by Phil KA2QIK # 3504

I've volunteered to work with the QSL buro "crew" in an effort to send out Radiograms to those FISTS with QSL cards in the buro without envelopes. I could use a few additional volunteers to help send out the Radiograms. I'm willing to go it alone but it would make the job a bit easier if one or two other FISTS would like to help me.

I'm willing to do all the coordination and can split up the list and keep track etc. Just have any interested FISTS who want to help send Radiograms contact me via e-mail at pkroth@juno.com or my call book address. Thanks, Phil

Tom N3XT is Back on the Air!

Tom Moyers (N3XT) 4510 Glendale Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193-2424 E-mail:
AC4XT@AOL.COM

Hello Nancy,

Sorry I'm so late with my subs. I would like to thank everyone for their cards and letters. They went a long way towards making me feel better. Never before did I appreciate the value of them.

For those who don't know, I underwent major surgery for Esophageal cancer in April of 98, spent nine hours on the table. Afterwards I had some complications with the chemo and radiation therapies and had to be hospitalized 3 times after the original operation. I lost 55 pounds and don't seem to be gaining it back. I now weight 160 pounds and it is a nice weight for me, I think my ideal weight is between 145 and 155.

I retired last month and am finally back on the air. I'm not looking for awards anymore, but would be glad to give out my FIST and CC numbers for those who are. I just like to meet folks who aren't in too much of a hurry to work CW.

Ah CW, takes longer to communicate, cuts down on hard to spell words and I don't have to overcome prejudices because the voice sounds like someone else I know, everyone starts out fresh. Wonder if you know what I mean? Tom (N3XT)

FISTS Feedback

From Fred K5QLF: "After reading the "Thought Provoker Thoughts" in Issue 10 of The Keynote, I had to go back to Issue 9 and try to figure out what I had missed. I had read the original piece by Charles Parmenter, AB0HQ, and could not for the life of me recall having been insulted, defamed or otherwise been targeted or victimized by it.

Certainly, it was neither filthy nor anti-white male, of which I am one: And in no way could it be considered blasphemous, since it did not criticize or insult any god(s) and white males do not qualify as gods. If anything, it was too long, and the author needs to have the parenthesis keys ripped from his typewriter. Otherwise, it was OK.

I am glad you printed the original piece, Nancy. A little tongue-in-cheek humor is a welcome change from the run-of-the-mill offerings too often found in the Amateur Radio press. I'd venture that those critics of Charles's piece who just didn't get it wouldn't understand Mark Twain or Doonesbury either. Don't let the nay-sayers keep you from running pieces like that, please. If we can't poke fun at ourselves, who can we poke? All the best in 1999."

From Joe WB7TNH: "Lately I have been on 21.058, listening mostly, but working a couple of FISTS members. I am going to get a Century Certificate in the not too distant future. But, meanwhile, this suggestion: For instance, if 21.058 is a "calling frequency" why not make your CQ FISTS call on .058, then QSY up or down 2-3 kHz. That would leave the "calling frequency" open for the next CQ and further contacts. The old commercial stations worked it that way and had very good results. The traffic nets of today do it. It all works very well.

So, the "calling frequency" would be for calling CQ's. And then you could QSY off .058 to wherever you could get a clear frequency. CW being narrower than sideband, it would mean more frequencies would be available, with less QRM from adjacent stations. Besides the modern rigs have filters, VBT, etc. Even the older rigs have filters which those ops still use, and it could all work out very well.

My suggestion is - give it a try and see how you like it. Go ahead TRY IT - you might LIKE IT."

From Bob NT8X: First off, I would like to thank you for all the hard work and the GREAT job you do with the KEYNOTE. Every issue is professionally done and I know it takes a lot of time and effort on your part. Thank you very much.

(Thank YOU! That's nice to hear!)

In the Sep/Oct 98 issue in the FISTS Feedback section there is a comment from Murray, VE3JMY, about ZULU time and GMT. I am a retired Navy radioman chief and it is a fact that the military, Navy and Marines at least, assign phonetic names to each time zone, ie. Alfa, Charlie, Romeo, etc. GMT is assigned the phonetic name of ZULU. All military comms are conducted using ZULU time, saves a lot of confusion. I don't remember the names assigned to each time zone, but I am sure it would not be too difficult to find out.

As for the origin, I don't know who did it or when the zones were first assigned phonetic names.



FISTS Of Another Sort

While visiting in Moncton, N.B., I noticed this sign over a doorway. Photography is my other hobby, and I had my camera with me.

73 and have a good day, de Maurice, VE1QJ

From Vincent N2AJZ:

Just wanted to let everyone know that I upgraded from Advanced to Extra and I can't say enough about my fellow FISTS. It was YOU who gave me the practice, the encouragement, and the "prodding" to reach the 20WPM goal. You were patient with me and stayed on with me sometimes for 1+ hours while I hacked my way up. Special thanks to Terry K8EHE for being my sponsor, and getting me into FISTS in the first place. Thanks to Bob N1YLA my last contact before the test. And to all the other CW operators, Fists and non-FISTS, who worked with me for the last 10 months or so. Of all the organizations I belong to, ham or otherwise, this one brings me the most enjoyment. (I actually look forward to receiving and reading the Keynote!) Thanks again to everyone. I'll be prowling around the bands looking for you. Sincerely, Vincent Cortina N2AJZ/AE

From Henry WA0GOZ, #5696: Much can be said for the usual arguments for keeping CW as part of the examination for an amateur radio operators license, such as:

- 1) It is the most reliable form of communications. Messages can get through using CW when it is not possible with other modes.
- 2) It has the narrowest bandwidth and since amateur HF allocations are limited, CW provides the largest number of concurrent global signals.
- 3) It has the lowest technical complexity and thus the lowest equipment cost which is especially important in developing countries.
- 4) It provides the ability to communicate across normal language barriers and thus communicate between different cultures and backgrounds.

One can talk about an amateur license being a privilege which must be earned because it is not a right. One can talk about things earned being more appreciated, better cared for and lasting longer. One can talk about CW being irrelevant in this high tech world and cite instances of organizations, such as the Coast Guard, dropping it. (These organizations have much more sophisticated equipment and run much more power than amateurs). The argument of CW irrelevancy is just a "spin doctor's" way of saying "I don't want to make the effort". One can talk about CW being proof of desire, intent and appreciation of what the person is testing for; an amateur radio operators license.

But when it really comes down to it, the **MOST IMPORTANT** reason to keep the CW requirement is that:

CW IS THE SOUL OF AMATEUR RADIO.

It is part of the mystery and adventure and thrill and fascination, that has been amateur radio since it's beginnings. Take CW away and there is nothing left but glorified CB; it matters not how hard the written exam. The no-code proponents don't seem to understand that CW is the **GLUE THAT BINDS** radio amateurs together and differentiates them from CB'ers. That is the reason no-coders feel abused and left out. (It's not so much that they are abused and left out as it is that they know within themselves that they really haven't made the grade).

That is the reason amateurs feel cheated by people who get medical waivers so that without code they get higher class licenses. That is the reason the ARRL administered VEC program in the United States works; ARRL VEC examiners won't let the hobby become

unglued by cheating. They are loyal to the fundamental culture of the hobby.

I urge that CW is kept as a requirement for licensing for an amateur radio operator using the frequencies below 30 MHz. CW can be learned by anyone. Talk to the HandiHams; they are not the ones getting medical waivers. It only takes effort and determination. Those who persist and upgrade do so because of respect for themselves and the hobby. Sincerely, Henry Knoll, WA0GOZ

From Gary W0CGR #5109: "I noted with interest the comment by a FISTS member that he had been an 058 (high speed manual Morse intercept operator) in the Army Security Agency. He commented on the irony of our choice of frequencies being "058" from the typical band edge. I noted that as well and wondered if it was more than coincidence. I served as an 058 with the 3RD RRU in Saigon in the early 60's. Copying CW professionally was probably the best job I could have ever hoped for.

I enjoy working the WARC bands and hope we can settle the issue of where to meet other FISTS there. I hear more activity on 10118 than on other suggested frequencies. Also I wonder if there is a consensus on 12m which is also very useful when it opens. I had a fb QSO with a FISTS there just the other day, only by checking the membership roster did I figure out we were both fists. Of course activity is picking up on 17m as well, and I'm not sure where to go there either. Keep up the great work, I've really enjoyed Keynote and look forward to each issue. Most of all I enjoy the new friends I've made on the air and the wonderful QSO's that are the result of FISTS activity."

From Bob #2742: I was saddened to read in the Keynote that George Singleback has passed away. Geo was my first CW contact 5 years ago when I first became a ham. I have had many QSO's with George and he turned me onto the Sunrise Net and also to FISTS. He and I discussed many topics but his favorite was gardening. He was originally from NJ and gardened a lot as a young fella. We kidded a lot about good green vegetables and he turned me on to growing collards in my garden. I was a CW op in the Army in the 1940s and have a gud CW ear. George without a doubt was the most accomplished CW op I ever ran across. Perfect to a T. So, now I'm sure George will be tapping it out on the Golden Key.

This short poem was written during the first few years of commercial wireless telegraphy. Note the reference to Marconigram, which is a telegram passed by a Marconi wireless system.

Wireless, by K.G. Martin, 1904

Wireless, meaningless, save that we know
that another man in a far away land
stands by the side of a gibbering spark,
punching his message into the dark.

Into the dark of a Summer's night,
and around the world and into the light
of our brilliant Winter day
Speeds the vibrant, quivering ray.

And, caught in the web of sky-flung wires,
sinks to earth, chatters, expires;
But before it dies, skillful hands of man
Have torn from it's soul a Marconigram.

73 de K5RW, Neal McEwen

First DX

By Bill Henneberry KN2X

Greetings, Old Man, and thanks for the call,
Been a ham one month and having a ball.
You call is odd, can't place it at all
But your signal is bouncing off the wall.

My QTH is Casper, Wyoming,
Where coyotes now are stealthily roaming,
The sun is set, it's now the gloaming
But cumulus clouds are still seen foaming.

My names is Charles, Chuck to you
Using dipole in attic, it's brand new,
With three-watt output, my own home brew.
So how copy, friend, and back to you.

Dear Old man Chuck, my name is Tet,
I live in Shangri-la in the heart of Tibet.
You're 60 over 9, my best report yet
And the first Wyoming I've ever met.

Am a lama here and life is sweet,
There's no strife seen in our retreat;
The weather is fine, my pleasure to greet
Your signal from Casper, really neat.

Shangri-la is a fabulous place.
We do not age, not trouble with race.
War is unknown, our special grace,
Happiest land in all of space.

Rig is Marconi, ancient, too,
But spark is glowing, clean and blue;
Powered by yaks, on a treadmill true,
So how copy, Chuck, and back to you.

Dear Old Man Tet, great copy here,
Fine business on the treadmill, real fine gear.
Don't know the Marconi, is it dear?
Most be hot 'cause your note's real clear.

Age here 14, go to school,
Help on a farm, driving a mule.
Home-brew rig is cranky as a rule,
Hams with linears often ridicule.

Surprised you answered, band is dead,
But, I'm awake, 'cause hog must be fed.
All other hams have gone to bed,
When I show your QSL, it'll knock 'em dead.

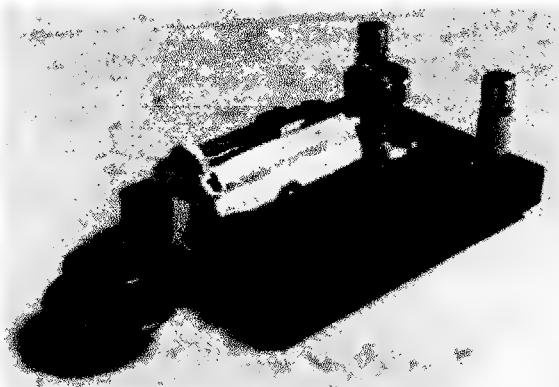
So, two hams chat all through the night,
In Casper glims the morning light.
Chuck has a smile that's really bright,
His first DX has turned out right.

Well, Old Man Chuck, I must sign now,
The High Lama here is raising a row.
He has a sked with a genie in Hankow,
So will say 73 and good luck for now.

Chuck is older now, fifty eight,
He's had his Extra for many a date.
Has a beam on a tower, his rig is great,
But on certain nights he'll listen and wait.

He waits for the signal which never appears,
But he's never quit, all through the years.
The sound of that spark still rings in his ears,
A sound he sometimes imagines he hears.

So all you Novices, if you should get
An odd sounding spark, it's from Tibet!
Answer it fast, it's old man Tet!
Enjoy a QSO you'll never forget.



Above is a photo of a key that Rob W2IE made.

Specs: all ball bearing, can be adjusted to .0001 inches while in use and reset to a previous setting. Arm weighs 23 grams. Made of 660 bronze, t6 alu, red brass and tiger maple. Rob used to run a design and prototyping firm but now he just plays around, hi. Nice job, Rob!

The Land That Time Hasn't Forgotten!

by Marty WD4AXJ

Hi folks, welcome to the land of Morse. You are now entering a place where ancient rites and passages are still carried out today. Some think time has passed us by but I beg to differ. There is something to be said for our time honored customs. We still practice courtesy to others at all times. Our "young" may be a little slow but we bring them up to speed with loving patience and individual care. We teach them respect for others and the arcane art of gentlemanly behavior on the bands. We hear rumors of places where rude behavior and "the biggest signal wins" is the norm, but we endeavor to keep such evils from entering our fair land. You will know you have entered our realm when you start hearing funny dot-dash sounds coming from your speaker. Don't be alarmed, that's just our native language. You may have a little difficulty understanding us at first because of the many dialects. There is a straight key, bug, paddles, left foot, keyboard, and heck, even some accents I haven't figured out yet! But once you get the hang of it, I think you might be tempted to settle here and find a frequency that you can call home. A good place to look is any place that ends in .x58. This is the home of the FISTS clan. They are a friendly bunch and you won't find nicer neighbors, here when the old arts of CW and the amateur's creed are still practiced today. Come visit anytime and we will be waiting to welcome you with a cheery QSL and an invite to join one of the friendliest families on the band, FISTS! 73 Marty Reid.

ISSUE 1 1999

A most enjoyable event! The QSOs seemed "looser" than usual, with folks wanting to chat more than usual and CW running in a humorous vein. It IS in our blood!

My first contact was with Don, K7TFW, in Wyoming. We joked about WY being a two-FISTed state -- he could be right - he is the first FISTS I've met there. Next was a nice HNY from Bill, W6DDB. He told me Marie was working 80m, and after Bill signed I went there, but CA was not coming in here in MD. Next was Chuck, W8LQ in Wisconsin. He was using the key from a World War II code instruction unit. He mooched it from a friend across town for SKN.

Next I met Bob, NT8X, my first FISTS contact in West Virginia. He was using an old Navy key that he was given at the decommissioning of the USS ORION. Bob is a retired Chief Radioman, and it turned out we had come close to crossing paths in the Mediterranean in the '70s.

Then I talked for a while with Ben, KB0ZOM, running a J-38. I tried to talk him into joining FISTS -- hope he does. Then a hello with Wayne, N8RAR, in Michigan, but the gas was running out at 0920Z. Resumed the next afternoon, and met Tom, K8CZ, in Ohio, before switching to my HW-8.

The first to put up with my 3 watts on 40m was Cathy, KC2DYW, in NY. She was using her Dad's J38 in his shack, and when I asked if she had heard about FISTS replied that she had just received an application and it would be in the mail the next day.

Last SKN QSO was on 80m where the HW-8 does a little better, almost 4 watts, and I met Joe, N2ADP, in NJ. He was using the most unique key of all, a 1919 Army Signal Corps Flameproof Key.

My key? If you have my latest QSL card you have a picture of it. It is a Bunnell Triumph key mounted on a bakelite plate which carries a standard Navy metal nomenclature tag. The tag says it is part of QC-type (sonar) gear, built by the Submarine Signal Co. of Boston according to a contract dated 29 Dec 1936. A wonderful key!

It was an SKN to remember, and the FISTS members I met made it very special.

What's Up With This?

These are just two of the letters of this sort that I've gotten within the last couple months. The callsigns and names have been omitted, of course.

FISTS aren't the "CW Police" but we hope that anyone who joins FISTS will uphold our motto of "Courtesy At All Times". When you're on the air, people ARE reading the mail and apparently there are some FISTS out there who are being rude and mean-spirited. FISTS has a reputation for patient and courteous operators, please don't operate in a manner that will tarnish our good name!

"Heard a little exchange on the air today and in my opinion has no belonging whatsoever in FISTS. The behavior of the FIST member (the 8 call) went like this "K8XXX CQ CQ K8XXX DE KA3XXX, KA3XXX de K8XXX ur 599 name ____ BK K8XXX de KA3XXX name ____ could u pse QRS? BK K8XXX responds r u extra class? BK YES YES BK dont know why you extras cant copy 20 73 K8XXX.

"Although he has just been insulted, the K3XXX replies: havnt been on cw fer 15 years im rusty also hve a novice in the shack so tnx fer ur contact hpe u hve a gud holiday best of 73 hpe to cul . So all things considered the novice just witnessing this attitude probably says to himself what a bunch of jerks think I'll play with my computer instead.

"I am certainly glad that we do not have too many of these types in FISTS most of the people I meet in the organization are kind and considerate. 73 John WB2EXI"

"I just had a very bad CW QSO with one of our members X8XX. He was keying very fast, so I asked him to QRS. He slowed his key way down to ~7 wpm, then asked if I was an Extra. I said yes. Then he replied that he couldn't believe extras that can't copy 10 wpm, then he QRT. Not a very friendly QSO and not one that makes me proud to be a FISTS member. I can copy 10 wpm, and furthermore "Accuracy trancends speed". QSO's like this one make us all look bad. Any response from FISTS? Thanks for hearing me out. Jeff Sell K8OE"

LISTEN FIRST, PLEASE!

This letter is from a non-FISTS member, but he does have a point. No one owns a frequency. If 14.058 is busy - and really LISTEN to see if it is - please just go up a few and call there. With so many FISTS now, we have to spread out!

From Den AB6QR: "I am an avid QRP CW operator. I currently work 5 different bands, with plans to expand my capability. With the exception of the 7MHz band, the recognized QRP calling frequency is up 60 from the bottom of the band (14.060 MHz for instance).

I believe that the FISTS group would be up 58 on most bands (as in 14.0585 MHz on 20 meters). This presents a major problem for QRP operation.

As you know, the machine digital types who should know better than drop below 070 routinely come down to 060 or darn close. Thus, a QRP operator has a hard time working up from 060. On the other hand, if he drops down at all, he gets smashed by a big signal from a FISTS op. Add to this the poor selectivity of most home brew QRP equipment, and the situation is terrible.

Has your group ever been presented with this problem before? If I were the Dictator of the Earth, rather than the humble QRP operator that I am, I would make it law that the FISTS group operate at 065. This would be well away from the QRP freq., and as an added bonus, would keep those thoughtless digital operators at bay.

Think of it.... the official CW club of ham radio placing itself squarely in harm's way to defend the hapless QRP operator! Now there's a mission worthy of a CW club! "

Congratulations!

To Ron K5IGB, #4407, on his upgrade to Extra!
To Glenn AB7ZY on his upgrade to Extra!

To Skip K4ERC, #5113 on his upgrade to General!

To Dan KC8GOI, on his upgrade to Advanced!

To Jeff N9ZUT #3837 -- Rockford IL ARA's 1998 Ham of the Year for his contribution of time and talent to the Rockford Club and it's activities.

To Vincent N2AJZ on his upgrade to Extra!

To Jeffrey K8OE #5181 on his upgrade to Extra!

To Rich KI8GZ #3986 on his upgrade to Advanced!

To J.D. K5IF #3393 on his upgrade to Extra!

40 Meter QRM SSB in US CW Sub-Band

by: Edward R. Breneiser, WA3WSJ

Has anyone else been QRMed in the 40 meter cw section by ssb? Everytime I try to operate cw on 40m, I find qrm from Canadian stations on ssb. Even during Straight Key Night I found this to be the case. At first I just changed to another band, but recently I figure why should amateurs loose this portion to ssb! We have been using this sub-band for some time now.

I must admit that my first reaction was anger towards the Canadian amateurs. But, after doing some research, I find my anger is directed towards the wrong people. I recently sent an E-Mail to a Mr. Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, who has responsibility for the RAC Regulation Department for help concerning this issue. Here is his response:

As an amateur who has been licensed for 50 years, and whose favorite mode is CW, I can sympathize with your problem. If I wish to operate CW on 40 meters, I have the same interference. However...In Canada, as you know, the government does not control the modes of operation in the sub-bands. There are voluntary band plans which most amateurs follow, and which are closely watched by other amateurs.

The RAC Metre band plan is as follows:

7.000 to 7.035Mhz- CW
7.035 to 7.050Mhz- Digital Modes
7.040 to 7.050Mhz- International Packet
7.050 to 7.100Mhz- ssb
7.100 to 7.120Mhz- Packet within Region 2
7.120 to 7.150Mhz- cw
7.150 to 7.300Mhz- ssb and other wide band modes

You can see that this band plan, which was approved by the Board of Directors of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, and which has been supported by Region II of the IRAU at its 1995 conference, provides for ssb operation between 7.050 and 7.100 Mhz. You can understand therefore that the RAC can not take a position recommending that Canadian amateurs not follow their own approved band plan. I am sure you would agree that if the situation were reversed, US amateurs would not hesitate to operate in sub-bands for which operation was authorized. I will forward your message to the RAC Board, and will also send it to our HF bandplanning committee for their consideration.

My main question is this: why would the IRAU approve such a plan knowing it would cause interference? The IRAU and the RAC also know that this plan will cause tension between US and Canadian amateurs. In response to Mr. Pulfer's E-Mail, it seems to me that the RAC has taken a very narrow view and is only concerned with matters north of its boarder. Radio waves see no boarders. I am also glad the situation is not reversed at this time. The FCC and the ARRL I hope would not draft a plan that knowingly would cause interference.

How about some cooperation between the RAC and the ARRL for a solution to this issue. Does anyone else have an option about this? If you would like to contact representatives who can hammer out a solution, here are a few contacts:

Radio Amateurs of Canada

Chairman: Patrick G. Doherty, VA3GD--
ve3pd@rac.ca
Regulations: Ken Pulfer, VE3PU-----
ve3pu@rac.ca

ARRL

Regulations: Tom Hogerty-----
thogerty@arrl.org

OOPS!

I just received the Keynote and enjoy it as always. I can imagine all the work that goes into getting it ready since I have been involved with our club: NPARC, Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club in various capacities and presently I hold the "cushy" job of VP. I tell everybody VP stands for Very imPortant!

The reason for this E-mail is that I have been accused of being a "pirate" (hi hi). On page 7 Tony, KE6YNR claims that Allan Taylor, K7GT has fists # 3232 and of course he has #3222. 3232 is mine, all mine !

So Nancy, I'm terribly upset :-):-) and the only way I'll ever be able to face the situation is if Tony buys me a coffee but he's all the way in CA I think and it'll be pritty cold by the time it gets here

73/88, Frank, ve3klm.

Saga of the Butternut!!

by Geo W4GEO

Now I would like to tell you the saga of the Butternut Beam. This antenna was recommended by my Elmer. He had purchased one but never had put it together. He expounded on what a great antenna it was. So, I bought one. Was I surprised by the box it came in.

The Butternut folks spent more time on designing how to get all 312 pieces in a box that was 4" x 6" x 72". The directions state that you should account for and mark all the pieces "a" to "AAz", etc. and it was a six hour job. The capacitors and coils all looked alike. Then came the construction of the antenna it self. The plans were not very clear and there were no photos of what the antenna looked like. The drawings appeared to be done by a three year old using a unsharpened crayon.

After a week of bolting and unbolting, I was ready to start tuning and testing the antenna. I nailed the antenna mast to the picnic table in the back yard. The instructions said the antenna needed to be at least seven feet off of the ground to tune it. I mounted the antenna to the mast at seven feet off the ground and standing on a step ladder, I commenced to tune this plumbers nightmare. This antenna looks like two bow ties with capacitor and coils hanging all over the place.

After several hours of tuning, I discovered that the front bow tie was on up side down. After turning it over and using my MFJ handy dandy antenna tuner, the antenna came in to the acceptable SWR Range. I then called my son and nephew and with their help and the help of two other two hundred pound men we preceded to put this antenna on a chimney mount up on the roof of the house. The antenna was mounted on 20 foot section of Radio Shack HD masting and guyed to the house. It was like a circus act the one with the person in a chair and the chair is on the end of a twenty foot pole and is springing up and down and swinging back and forth ... what a show it was.

The antenna was finally up, the SWR was good it was directional in every direction except for 10 and 12 meters which had some front to back. The antenna was working great then suddenly the SWR went sour. I checked every thing in the shack, and it all checked out. Sooo... it must be the antenna! Outside at the first glance everything looked in good shape.

A closer look revealed a broken wire that connected the bow ties of the antenna and a dead dove on the roof. The dove must have committed suicide or the antenna attacked it. But this meant that I had to get the mountain men back on the roof to take the antenna down again. I called

the mountain men for help, repaired the antenna, replaced the guy wires, tightened them up, I thanked them for their help again. I thought now I was going to be good to go for a while, it was great and ten meters was open to Europe.

One morning several months later while drinking my morning coffee, a freak thunderstorm came up and with a gust of high wind, a crunch was heard overhead. I looked out the back patio door and there was the antenna hanging off the house folded where its was not supposed to be. I hurried out to check the damage and found all four guy wires intact. After studying the mess, the masting was folded over as if some giant had stepped down on top of the antenna and mashed it down. I was disgusted with all of it, I took the whole mess down and put behind the shed.

When my friend "Big Bill" got his license, I gave the Butternut Antenna to him. I just wanted to get rid of the thing. Bill is a very handy fellow, he was able to repair the antenna. He picked up a telescoping mast from Radio Shack and proceeded to install the antenna and rotor on the mast. Bill pondered if he needed help raising the mast but decided to go it alone. Lacking two feet to be fully extended, a strong breeze came up and the Butternut antenna and rotor did a slow motion kamikaze crash into the ground. Bill cut up the now curved and useless mast and put it at the curb for refuse pick up. Bill then put the wounded Butternut antenna behind his shed

Lo and behold along come "Little Bill" who has just acquired a 10 meter rig and needs a antenna. "Big Bill" asks me if it is OK to give the antenna to "Little Bill" and Bill becomes the proud keeper of the Butternut beam. "Little Bill" repairs the antenna. He puts the antenna up in the back yard using a "Strong Arm Rotor" his XYL as the rotor.

Bill is now on the air, he mentions something about intermittent rotor operation, this causes Bill to consider other mechanical means of rotor operation. The antenna goes up with new rotor, different storm, different yard, same results. Crash and Burn ... "Little Bill" puts the Butternut behind his shed in the back yard.

Hello who is this arriving on the scene and eye balling the Butternut antenna? Why its Larry, who takes the Butternut to a new home. It has been disassembled, cleaned, repaired and waits to rise again.

A true story...

W4GEO

Basic Century Award

The Century Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members. FISTS operating from the same country that you are in are worth one point. FISTS operating from a different country, as defined by DXCC rules, are worth two points. FISTS affiliated club stations are worth three points.

A FISTS member can only be counted once, unless they are working mobile or portable from a different state or country.

You don't have to be a FISTS member at the time of the contact, but the person you are claiming for Century Award points must be a FISTS member AT THE TIME OF THE CONTACT. For example, if you QSO with someone who is not a FISTS member, but they join FISTS after the QSO, you must work them again for credit. You cannot count the QSO before they joined FISTS toward the Century Award.

You do not have to have a QSL card to claim the contact for the Century Award. A worksheet is available from the Web page in Ascii Text, Microsoft Works 3.0, and Microsoft Word 6.0. Use it as a check sheet to help keep track of stations worked.

Send a list of your FISTS contacts with QSO information (name, call, FISTS number, band, date) to the North American FISTS Award Manager, Joe Nihen, N3LBC, at 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA, 18232. There is no charge for the award for FISTS members, but three units (78 cents) return postage is appreciated. Non-FISTS are eligible for the award but please enclose \$1 to help defray expenses.

Golden Century Award

The Golden Century Award has the same rules as the Basic Century, but it is for a total of 500 points. Points used to claim the Basic Century may be used toward the Golden Century. This award is issued directly from Headquarters in England. Send the log information (no QSL's please) and \$5 US cash to Bob Lowe G0FRL, PO Box 190, Bolton England

BL1 4UL.

The Platinum Award

The Platinum Award (also called Century of the Centuries) is earned by working 100 FISTS who already have the Basic Century Award. This is also available (\$5) from HQ in England from Bob Lowe G0FRL, PO Box 190, Bolton England BL1 4UL.

The Century Awards are available in QRP and 2-way QRP, QRP meaning 5 watts or less output. Please give your power used when applying for the QRP version of the Award.

Send a list of your FISTS contacts with QSO information (name, call, FISTS number, band, date) to the North American FISTS Award Manager, Joe Nihen/N3LBC, 222 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232. There is no charge for this award for FISTS members, but return postage is appreciated. Non-FISTS are eligible for the award, but please include \$1.00 to help defray expenses.

Mobile Century Award

This award is earned by accumulating 100 points of two-way CW QSO's made while MOBILE on or after September 1, 1998.

The rules are the same as the Basic Century Award. Two-way CW QSO's within your own country are worth 1 point. Two-way CW QSO's with countries defined by DXCC rules are worth 2 points. Duplicate contacts do not count.

If you have not earned a Basic Century but apply for the Mobile Century, you will automatically be issued a Basic Century Award in addition to the Mobile Century Award.

You may count the points claimed for the Mobile Award toward the QRP Century Award if the power is 5 watts or less. They may also be counted toward the Gold, Platinum, or other awards if you have not previously claimed contacts.

For purposes of this award "MOBILE" shall mean:

Any motor vehicle used to transport people (car, truck, etc.)

The mobile must be moving, or stopped temporarily, as at a stop light.

Hawaii FISTS

NOTE: An RV, or similar vehicle, parked at a campground would be considered PORTABLE and NOT COUNTED TOWARD THIS AWARD. However, an RV, or similar vehicle, that is moving would be MOBILE.

QSO's made while you are driving or while you are a passenger in the vehicle are eligible.

Transmitting and receiving antennas must be physically attached to the vehicle.

Transceiver must be located inside the vehicle.

This award will start at 001 and increment.

The start of this award will be September 1, 1998. Any contacts made before that date will not count toward this award.

You do not have to have a QSL cards to claim a contact for this award.

Worked All States Award

WORKED ALL STATES award is earned by working FISTS members in all 50 states. The FISTS worked must be a FISTS member at the time of the contact. A worksheet is available in Ascii Text, Microsoft Works 3.0, or Microsoft Word 6.0 Formats from the web page.

Send your list of contacts to Joe Nihen, N3LBC, at 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA, 18232. There is no charge for the award to FISTS members, return postage is appreciated. Non-FISTS pse enclose \$1 to help defray costs.

FISTS Ragchewers Award

This award is earned by making 100 two-way CW QSO's, each lasting at least 30 minutes, with another FISTS member on or after the date of September 1, 1998. Duplicate member contacts are valid, but they must be made on different dates.

You may apply for this award only once.

Send a copy of your log information to: Joe Nihen/N3LBC, 222 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232. Return postage is appreciated. Questions about the awards may be directed to The North American FISTS Award manager, Joe at the above address or Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047.

Contacts from FISTS in Hawaii might not be so rare in 1999. Mike at KH7R has already had one Hawaiian "QSO Party" for FISTS contacts as I am writing this, and we hope he has more in the future. Here, he explains a bit about the set up they have.

" KH7R has a circle of six operating positions, one dedicated to each band with its own amp, rig, networked, computer and cluster of antennas, usually 3 per band.

I feel really bad about all the requests I get for skeds. My home QTH is in urban Honolulu in a condo and the condo blocks central USA and is backed by a mountain. I run QRP levels up to 20 watts and I am restricted to an antenna made out of two Hustler Whips. I give it my best and I have helped a number of FISTS members in the northern part of the country from WA to NY and along the southern edge from AZ to FL, but most of the rest is dead to me.

KH7R is something else. It can do WAS and DXCC in a single weekend with a bit of luck and has a chance, to work all 40 CQ zones in the same period on 15 meters alone. Last time I think we hit 39 zones and I know we have hit 38 zones. I usually work 160 and maybe 10 because we have an amazing operator who likes 15 and can work 300 Q's per hour on CW and keep it up for several hours at a time. That sure ain't me!!!

So I have been thinking about trying to run some FISTS contacts from KH7R where I can fire up some major beef with a proven track record."

FINAL

I better wrap this up, or I won't get it to the printers in time for delivery before Novice Round-Up. I thought I would be able to include a membership roster and a photopages roster in this issue, but I just had too much text I wanted to include. I'll aim for including that in Issue 2. Even with no news from Across the Pond and Down Under, we still managed to fill 24 pages. I really really appreciate your cards and letters, please keep them coming, I can't write the Keynote without you! And, I hope you'll be my Valentine! 73 88 Nancy WZ8C

FISTS CODE BUDDY APPLICATION

Mail to FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator:

John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030

Email: w9em@aol.com

Your Name _____ Callsign _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Your Daytime Phone Number _____ Evening _____ Fax _____

Your Email address _____

Your License Class _____ Your FISTS Number _____

Are you comfortable at (approximately):

Under 5 WPM 5 -10 WPM 10-15 WPM

15-20 WPM 20 - 25 WPM 25-30 WPM

30-35 WPM Above 35 WPM

Are you (check all that apply):

Looking for a Code Buddy to help you improve?

Looking to work with a Code Buddy to help them improve?

Looking for a Code Buddy around the same level, for on the air practice?

Bands You Have Available: _____

Days & Times you are available to get on the air: _____

Special Interests (this helps match you with someone with common interests):

COMMENTS: _____

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN OUR FISTS CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

FIST CW CLUB, P.O.Box 47
Hadley, MI 48440-0047

Have you checked your mailing label lately??

Your renewal due date is on the upper right
corner of the mailing label.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

